

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 /064 W

----- 088860

R 171715Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5211

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 30223

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR, ET, PFOR

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEWS ON ETHIOPIA

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA COMBAL TOLD US DECEMBER 17 THAT BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAD BEEN CREATED FOR THE OPERATION OF THE FRENCH LYCEE AND CULTURAL CENTER AT ADDIS AND THE ADDIS-DJIBOUTI RAILROAD, AMBASSADOR TRECA WAS RECENTLY INSTRUCTED TO MAKE A VIGOROUS DEMARCHE TO GENERAL TEFERI BENTI. TEFERI RECEIVED THE AMBASSADOR IN THE COMPANY OF A NUMBER OF YOUNGER OFFICERS. ALTHOUGH HE SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH, THE GENERAL CHOSE TO USE AMHARIC AND TO CARRY ON THE ENTIRE CONVERSATION THROUGH AN INTERPRETER.

2. COMBAL SAID THAT THE FRENCH ARE SATISFIED WITH THE SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSES TO THEIR COMPLAINTS. THEY WERE STRUCK BY THE DEGREE TO WHICH TEFERI BENTI IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF JUNIOR OFFICERS, BUT ARE SOMEWHAT REASSURED BY THE MILITARY'S SEEMING REALISM AND APPARENT DESIRE TO RESPECT ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENTS. TENTATIVELY, THE QUAI HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT WISHES TO CONTINUE THE GENERAL ORIENTATION

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OF FORMER ETHIOPIAN POLICY, INCLUDING POLICY TOWARD

DJIBOUTI, AND TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE WEST.
STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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